

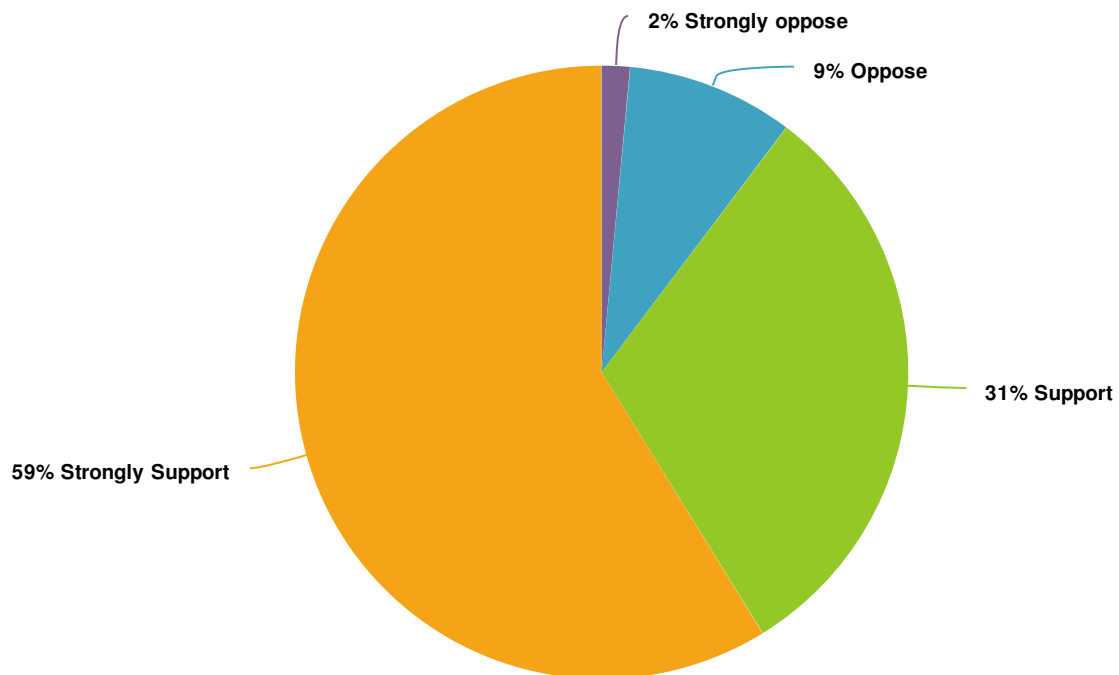
# Report for Draft Foothills Natural Areas Management Plan

## Response Counts



Totals: 81

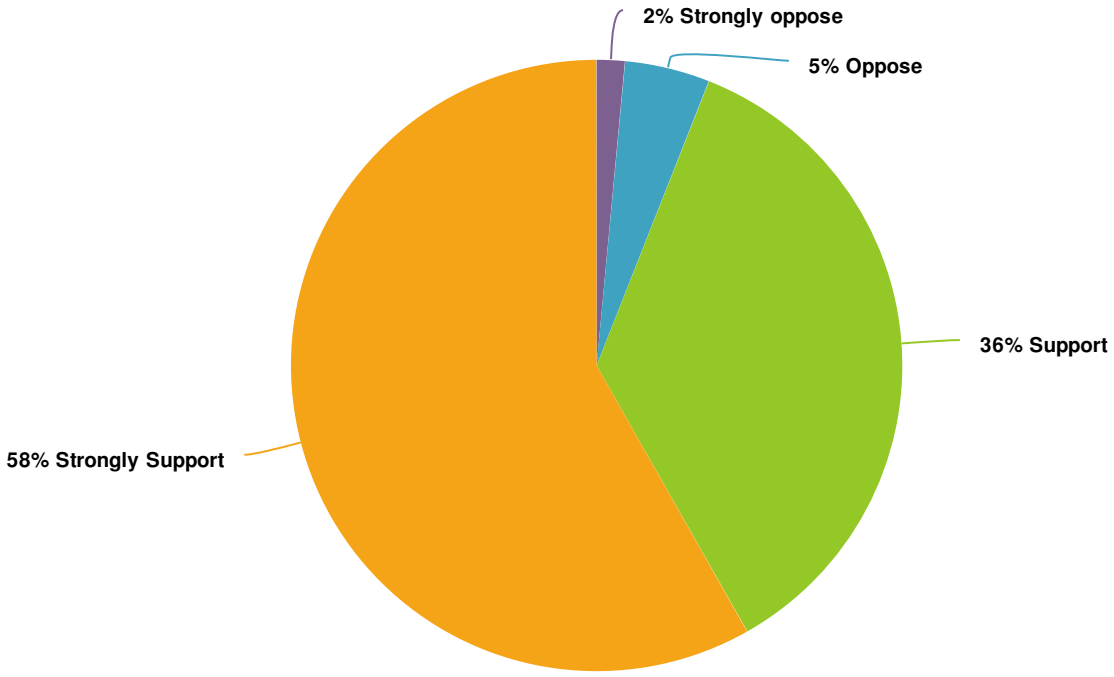
1. Please indicate your level of support for the goal: promote ecological integrity



Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly oppose		1.5%	1
Oppose		8.8%	6
Support		30.9%	21
Strongly Support		58.8%	40

Totals: 68

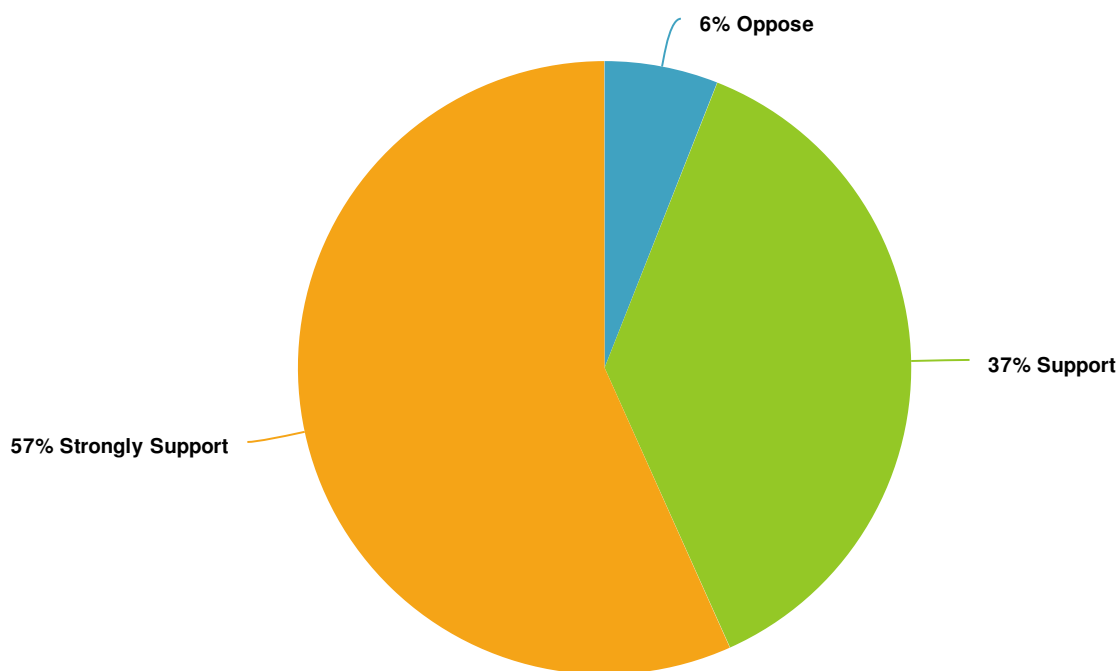
2. Please indicate your level of support for the goal: provide public access



Value		Percent	Responses
Strongly oppose		1.5%	1
Oppose		4.5%	3
Support		35.8%	24
Strongly Support		58.2%	39

Totals: 67

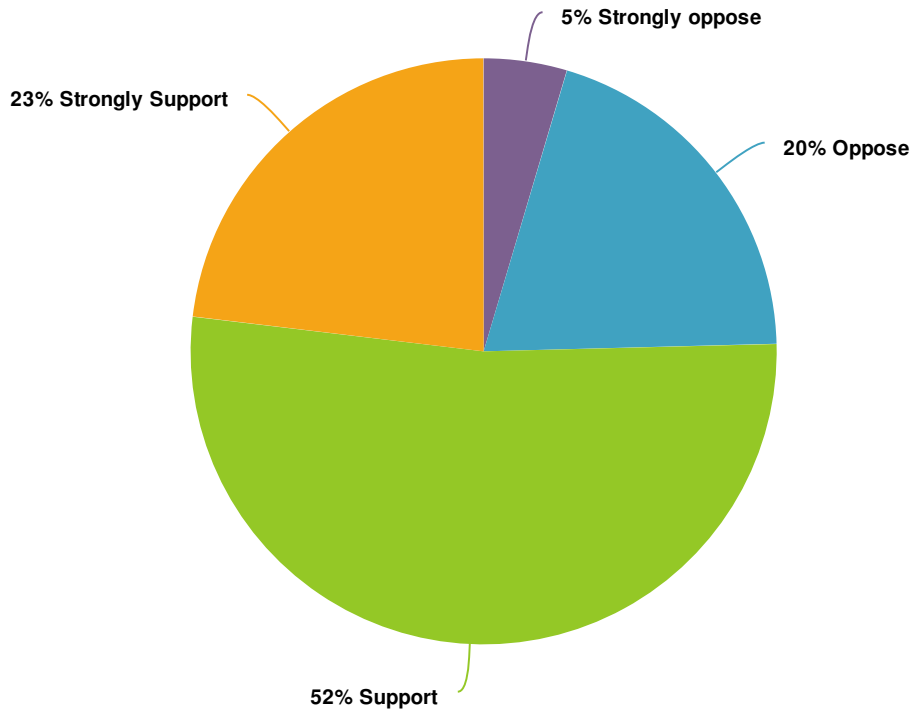
3. Please indicate your level of support for the goal: connect people to nature



Value	Percent	Responses
Oppose	6.0%	4
Support	37.3%	25
Strongly Support	56.7%	38

Totals: 67

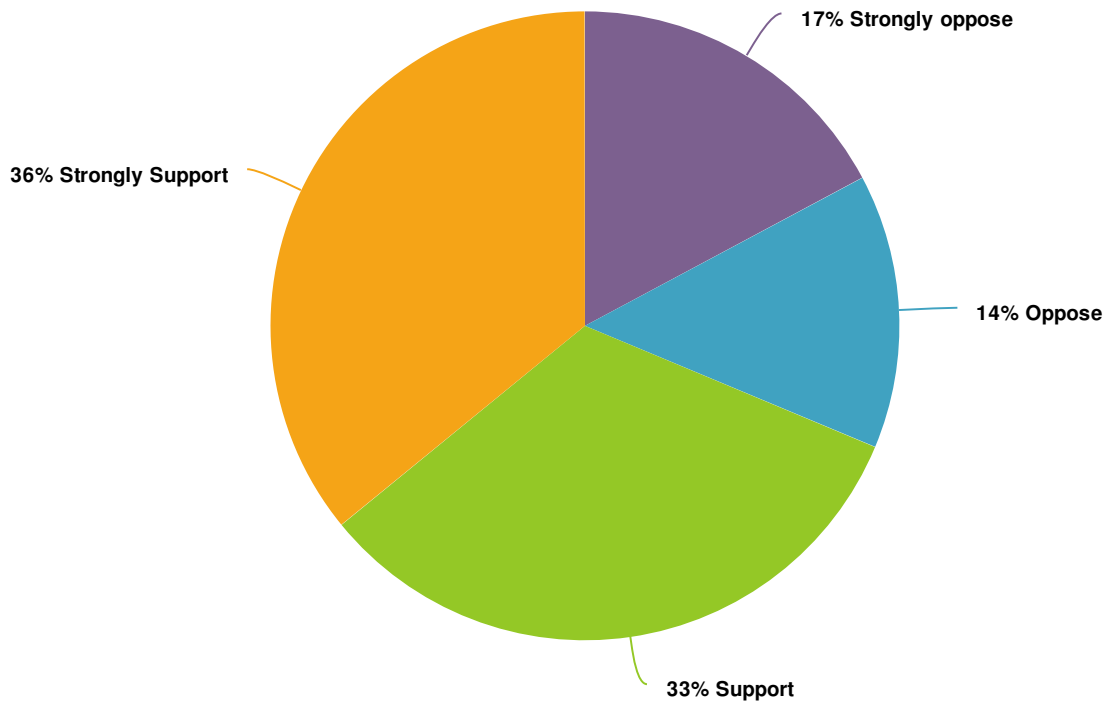
4. Please indicate your level of support for the visitor use decision: Reservoir Ridge Natural Area Potential Trail Loop  
 After careful consideration of three trail alignments, a short loop interpretive trail will not be implemented at this time. Instead, the Natural Areas Department will deepen its strategic approach to attracting diverse visitors.



Value	Percent	Responses
Strongly oppose	4.6%	3
Oppose	20.0%	13
Support	52.3%	34
Strongly Support	23.1%	15

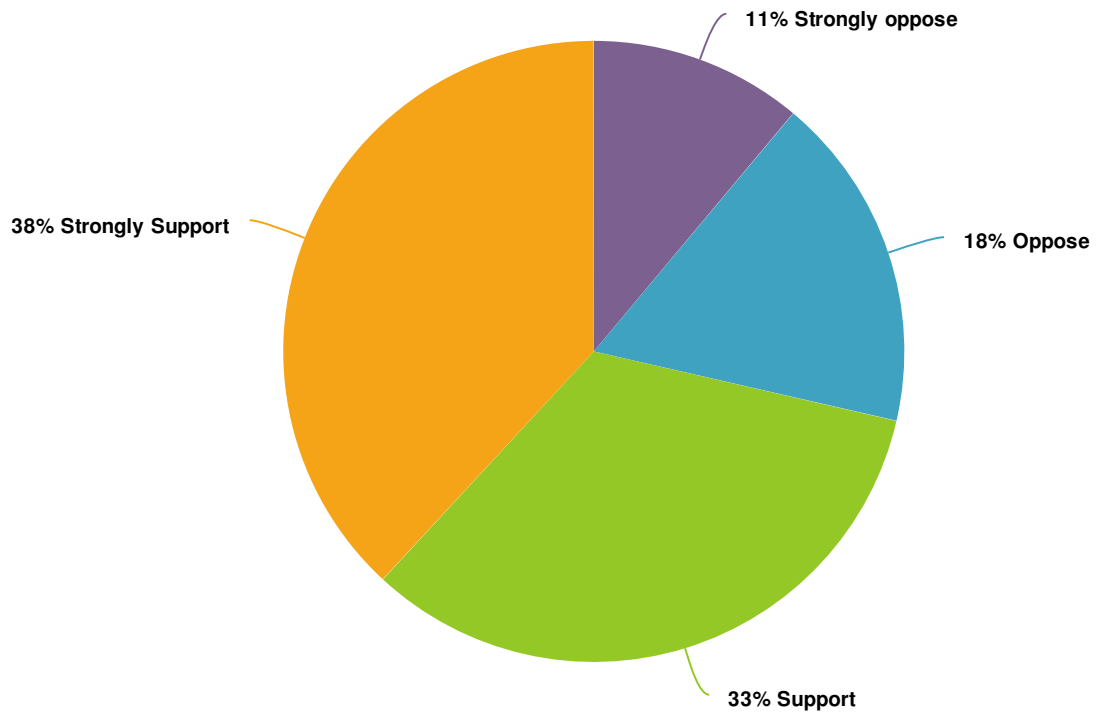
Totals: 65

5. Please indicate your level of support for the visitor use decision: Maxwell Natural Area potential trail addition (trail to the top) A new trail to the top at Maxwell Natural Area will not be installed. Instead, the Natural Areas Department will contract with a professional trail builder to re-design the Maxwell trail system to ensure sustainability while retaining the “fun” and flow that make the trail so well-loved.



Value	Percent	Responses
Strongly oppose	17.2%	11
Oppose	14.1%	9
Support	32.8%	21
Strongly Support	35.9%	23
		<b>Totals: 64</b>

6. Please indicate your level of support for visitor use decision: Pineridge Natural Area Sledding Area Elimination. The Natural Areas Department will discontinue sledding in this area and will advocate for a new sledding area as part of the Hughes Redevelopment project.



Value	Percent	Responses
Strongly oppose	11.1%	7
Oppose	17.5%	11
Support	33.3%	21
Strongly Support	38.1%	24
		<b>Totals: 63</b>

## 7. Comments:

### ResponseID Response

10 Thanks!

14 Some education opportunities that are not in evidence in the documents I read include: (1) educate pet owners about cleaning up after their pets, (2) educate hikers that what seems like excessive or unsafe speed to them may not be excessive or unsafe from the point of view of a cyclist -- this has to be a dialogue, not a one-sided conversation in which hikers tell cyclists what to do and cyclists shut up and take it.

## ResponseID Response

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- 15 The Maxwell Trail area (on the steep slope areas) should have something like the steps built on the old Manitou Incline. This has become a HUGE attraction down there. Great for tourism, fitness, attracting diverse crowds, respecting trails/wildlife, etc: <https://bit.ly/2Z6l5zj> there is a similar (less "human made") version in Los Angeles called Baldwin Hills overlook: <https://youtu.be/GfzM1CIQpFw> that includes steps AND switchbacks.
- 16 Your wording is vague, so be careful interpreting the results. Who does not support ecological integrity? However, that word can mean a lot of things to a lot of people. PhD researcher in ecology for background. Heavily used trail systems and parks are for getting people outside. That is not the ecological fight enough soap box. Thank you for making awesome multi-use trails. bikers and hikers can coexist!
- 17 Keep footprints to a minimum and protect the integrity of the land, it's naturalness, as much as possible.
- 18 I don't see very many private parcels on the Larimer Assessor's map between Maxwell and Res Ridge. Pretty much anything that doesn't abut Overland is state- or city- owned. Also, no mention of increased enforcement on and maintenance of trail systems makes me worry the same resource damage issues will continue to arise at Maxwell.
- 19 The use of new "non compressible" fill dirt around corners is very dangerous!!! Without knowing the actual reasons, I feel that this type of fill was used to curtail higher speed downhill turns. Actually, it makes it more dangerous by causing cyclists to make wider turns, on or off they path. Adding berms to turns would also allow "skidding" or off the edge of trail riding. More signage/education for users who CANNOT hear when a cyclist is approaching. Huge deal!!!!
- 21 Protecting the wildlife habitat and keeping the natural feel of these areas is the most important thing to me. I like the current trail connections being made by the department including the Long View trail. I feel it is important to maintain a long term view.
- 22 Do not wait for overcrowding before adding trails. The Hughes redevelopment will be disastrous to trail enjoyment if new trails are not installed prior to 3000 people moving into the area.
- 23 Keep wildlife migratory paths in mind so we don't cut off animals from their food or mating sources. We need animals like the prairie dog to breed with other colonies so that they lessen their chances for being wiped out by plague.
- 25 A second trail is desperately needed in the Maxwell area to provide access to Horsetooth trails. This trail should be both bike and hiker friendly, and it should be less technical than the current Maxwell trail. Rather than putting it way up north off Laporte, where it won't be used as much (and won't alleviate traffic), it should be built in the old stadium area (especially if more housing is going up there), or the area behind the Ponds. This is a high traffic area that needs better access.
- 26 Protect habitat. Conserve land. Recreation users are self-serving. No amount of trails or parking lots will ever satisfy the uncontrolled, developer-driven growth in population.

## ResponseID Response

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27 Thanks you for such a well-thought out plan.

29 While I appreciate the thoroughness of the IDFs, they can be too overwhelming for the general public. I want to understand why the city isn't pursuing an additional trail at Maxwell to differentiate between mountain bikers and hikers while accommodating more recreationists, but comprehending the decision-making process isn't easy. Also, let's get that trail from Maxwell to the Foothills Campus/Laporte built! It will be great to connect with a less used portion of the existing Foothills Trail.

30 Maxwell trail has already increased in width by 300% or more in some areas. Another trail would limit growth and be a good test for future trails to see impacts of MTB's vs hiker usage while limiting user conflict in this congested area. Current trail proposal will only create more user conflicts. Closing one area for sledding and opening another area somewhere else suggests provisions can be made to utilize more natural areas. Maxwell is more important to utilize more area than sledding.

31 Please please please work with land owners to establish new trails to lessen impact on current trails.

33 More trail access and connectivity is needed. Additionally, more intermediate level singletrack is needed.

34 Since Parks doesn't represent trail users and Natural Areas has them low on their list of priorities, where does this important interest group look? Pineridge is not a pristine wilderness and should not be treated like one. It's at best an urban natural area with burgeoning use. If a plant is a concern, plant it somewhere else in exchange. Only more users will come so not expanding the trail system is not serving the needs of the community. We need more trails and more diversity of trails.

35 I feel that the City of Fort Collins could continue to improve its reputation as a bike friendly city by constructing a less technical trail for mountain bikers that includes some built features like tabletops, berms, etc with the option to ride around. I feel that constructing a trail that is fun and caters to riders from beginner level to advance would be an excellent addition to the trail system in Fort Collins.

36 I do not understand the decision to not add another trail to the top of Maxwell. Regardless of a trail rebuild, there will continue to be crowding and resulting impacts because of only having one trail.

37 Need more parking at Maxwell. Many times vehicles are parked on the county road, right at the curve; someone's going to get hurt or killed! It would be a good time to expand parking on to the Hughes/CSU property - ask for it to be donated; doesn't hurt to ask.



## ResponseID Response

- 38      Terrific work, all. Thank you for your professionalism and careful management of our natural area treasures.
- 39      I am glad to see the trail connecting LaPorte to Maxwell made your plan. But I am sad that a second trail at Maxwell did not. Maxwell is so over crowded. I am encouraged that you would contract a professional trail builder for the work on the existing Maxwell trail. Please don't make the trails wide and smooth. I value narrow singletrack, with challenges in the form of rocks and features. I know this is off topic but I'd also like to vote for bike access on the DR trail at Bobcat ridge!
- 40      This plan is pathetic. Clearly the method to determine overcrowding is broken. Maxwell is almost unusable due to crowding, the trail is 12' wide and no matter how we rebuild the trail it will get that wide again. This happens because there are so many people on this trail they can't get around each other. I'm nervous about the term "refresh", there is no explanation of what that means and given the changes made to Coyote R. This could mean a disappointing semi-paved path. We need more trails!
- 41      Noticed a typo in the Story Map beneath the Bell's Twinpod pictures: the word "restoration" is misspelled.
- 42      Overall, I support this effort.
- 44      The questions asked were too black and white. While the ecology of the environment should be a priority, improving access should be higher. More purpose-built mountain bike trails, please.
- 46      You folks are doing a fantastic job. I am very impressed with the amount of detail and the forethought that you have put into these plans. I have read all the documents, and agree with all of your plans.
- 47      8 foot wide crushed gravel paths do not create the trail user experience we are looking for! Narrow technical single track trails create a better user experience, help mitigate speed and reduce user conflicts. Narrow trail have a much smaller "zone of impact" on wildlife flora and fauna. Narrow trails cause less fragmentation of Natural Areas.
- 48      I still support the introduction of a second Maxwell trail to the top. I feel that the foot/horse traffic should be separate from bikes.
- 51      Despite our fervent desire to separate the mountain bikes from the hikers and trail runners in Maxwell Natural Area, we understand your decision not to build a new trail in the ecologically significant areas of Maxwell. We do find your Quality Visitor survey selection criteria suspect due to the limited time you surveyed users in the Foothills Natural Areas, especially Maxwell. Why are you limiting comments to 500 characters?
- 52      Love the plan, appreciate the focus on conservation.

## ResponseID Response

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- 54 thanks for all your hard work on this. It seems like you all heard the community. Ecological health and trails are important. We are a trail community, and the MTB and running, hiking community are rather large here, and of course, want more access, connectivity. Bottom line, trails, dirt, nature encourage town and community 'stoke,' so it's important. I love the ability to ride on trails near my home with my children. We interact with nature and talk about why FOCO rocks. :-)
- 55 I strongly support a connector trail between Reservoir Ridge and the Poudre River trail. Reach the foothills without needing to use a car! Add bike racks at trailheads! Again, no car needed! Also, I really appreciate the city's focus on ecological improvement. Our natural areas should not be overrun with mountain bikers who bomb the trails at the expense of all other trail users and wildlife. At least 75% of mountain bikers always make the assumption that hikers will yield. Speed limits!
- 56 I am a frequent user of the Natural Areas trail systems. I am both a mountain biker and hiker. I would like to advocate for an increase in trail construction focused different uses. For example, why not create a 2nd trail at Maxwell designed for Mt. biking. by separating these uses, visitors would experience increased satisfaction in both groups. I know this would be expensive, but I think the visitation is only going increase and something like this will be needed in future.
- 57 The goal of Promoting Ecological Integrity has to be primary. Once these fragile habitats are destroyed or carved up they are difficult or impossible to restore. Recreation is a secondary goal dedicated to peoples current enjoyment. Habitat preservation can preserve these habitats long into the future and should be primary.
- 59 NA
- 60 Great job. I agree with everything you are doing!
- 61 Thank you for taking and utilizing community feedback! It is much appreciated. I believe because of the overcrowding the trail is widening and deepening over the years. Hikers need to step off for downhill bikers, which ends up widening the trail to probably 4X the width of yesteryear. As a hiker, runner and occasional biker I hope that the Maxwell trail keeps its tough switch backs we all enjoy! I do think its time to do occasional patrol to educate and enforce bikers to step off for peds.
- 62 I most support the goal of preserving the natural features of these areas (the ecological integrity and wildlife habitat, and important plant communities). I have read that a new, technical mountain bike trail has been opened already. There is no need to add more bike trails. Since Larimer County supports a lot of mountain biking in the adjacent open spaces, I would support a reduction in mountain bike use (either explicitly or by limiting new trail building).
- 63 Thank you for your important work. What about the possibility of additional trails at Coyote Ridge?

## ResponseID Response

68 A few concerns: 1. I have not seen the usual *Physaria belli* population on the east side of Dixon or the ridge east of it. A problem? 2. Need to have owners pick up horse excrement to avoid non native plant spread through seed in excrement. 3. Dog poop and little black bags are still a problem. Warn dog owners by signage that trail will be close to dogs if fouling continues, and then do so if it does!. This spring I counted 25 piles of dog poop in the first 100yds at Maxwell.

70 Mountain Bikes are not being considered. This is disappointing. Separate directional Mountain Bike-only trails are the ONLY option to relieve user conflicts between hikers, trail runners and bikes. A Mountain Bike specific trail on Floyd Hill supported by the Colorado Mountain Bike Association has recently opened as (embarrassingly) the first of it's kind on the Front Range to rave reviews and national attention. Consider the revenue and exposure generated, and let's build some here too. PLEASE.

71 Very well thought out management plans! Thank you for providing the supporting documents, including species lists. I am concerned that a new trail through Dixon Woods would disrupt habitat and lower biodiversity at this hotspot. However, I liked the idea of a bird viewing area.

72 I am pleased with City trails in these areas. Thank you for your work. As an avid MTBer I ride them often when I do not have time to drive farther. I have positive experiences with users and enjoy the areas. Please keep trails as natural surface as possible including rocks, avoiding gravel paths which are not really trails but balancing out the need for multi-use access. I feel this is done well currently but worry greatly about trails becoming paths. Please don't use sharp rocks for water bars.

74 I do not support the decision to NOT thoughtfully implement another trail at Maxwell; this is an increasingly high traffic area that gives many access to nature; your approach is clearly not addressing the problems or public input. The dept. continues to find creative ways to draw conclusions & take steps from the public's input that don't match up. The exercise is about Foothills, not attracting different opinions when you don't get the result you want. I'll be in touch with my council-member

75 More trails are needed sooner than later. Ignoring/avoiding the problem of population growth and trail use is something we cannot do. Blue or green skill level Connections from maxwell to Laporte to res ridge will greatly assist in dispersing user groups. Further connections to horsetooth or lory would be excellent. We must aggressively pursue additional ways to meet the demand and control the ecological impact of users, or trail wear, natural area damage and confrontation will only worsen.

77 Trail building and maintenance is what the area needs. With continuing increase in population our current trails cannot keep up with the demand of outdoor enthusiasts. The trails are being destroyed due to too much foot traffic. We need more trails. Connecting trails, new trails, restored trails.

78 The normal population of cattails in all nat. areas has exploded and this is a problem for wildlife. It's a waterflow issue (probably). Can this be addressed?

## ResponseID Response

- 79 I support preservation of the ecology in aforementioned areas through the careful management strategy of implementation of increased trail connectivity for all users, ie mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians etc. Through responsible usage of these trails our community members will gain a stronger connection to nature and all that it provides us as well as our impacts upon it. Isolating natural areas from any trail users will only decrease support for preserving open spaces.
- 80 This survey does not meet the bar. Each decision and/or question has multiple items within; it is inappropriate to allow for just a single response to be able to interpret the results accurately. With regards to the actual decisions, the residents of fort collins spoke (CSU confirmed), and it does not appear they were listened to. We are asking for more experiences in nature, on trails, that take into account the growth in the population and use. These are our tax dollars, please do your job.
- 81 I happened to learn about the opportunity to comment on Foothills Management Plan via info at Soapstone on 8/31 and from the volunteer at Soapstone. I, in theory, do support a diverse population enjoying the parks and exposing more people to nature, however....I don't want more people in 'my' open spaces! I am surprised at myself! I have a BIG issue w/ out of control mntrn. bikers...I have yet to have a bike yield or even slow down. I would like to ban the bikes on more of the trails, sorry!